

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method for communicating data over plural channels, comprising the steps of:

5 selecting data to be communicated;

selecting encryption information;

encrypting said data with said encryption information to thereby produce encrypted data;

breaking said encryption information into portions:

10 communicating said encrypted data by way of at least one channel of said plural channels;

communicating at least some of said portions of said encryption information over at least one of said plural channels other than said at least one of said channels over
15 which said encrypted data is communicated.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of selecting data includes the step of selecting video data for communication over a satellite path.

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3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of communicating said encrypted data by way of at least one channel of said plural channels includes the step of communicating said encrypted data by way of a single one of
25 said plural channels.

4. A method for providing program information to subscribers, said method comprising the steps of:

30 selecting a plurality of information streams to be communicated to said subscribers;

encoding each of at least some of said information streams with individual entitlement control information to thereby generate entitlement encoded information streams;

35 breaking each element of said individual entitlement control information into plural portions;

communicating said encoded information streams to said subscribers, each of said encoded information streams being communicated over one of a plurality of independent channels; and

5 communicating said plural portions of said entitlement control information to said subscribers, at least some of said portions of each individual entitlement control information being communicated over separate ones of said independent channels.

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5. A method according to claim 4 for use when each subscriber has one of a plurality of different program entitlements, further comprising the steps of:

generating individual entitlement management commands
15 identifying those information streams of a particular program to which a corresponding subscriber is entitled;

breaking each of said individual entitlement management commands into plural portions;

communicating said entitlement management commands to
20 said subscribers over at least some of said independent channels, with at least some of said portions of each of said individual entitlement management commands being communicated over separate ones of said independent channels; and

at each subscriber location, simultaneously decoding
25 the information in at least plural ones of said independent channels to thereby form decoded information, and from said decoded information, reconstituting at least that one of said individual entitlement management commands applicable to the subscriber to thereby form a reconstituted entitlement
30 management command.

6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of:

at each subscriber, making available only those of
35 said information streams, entitlement encoded information

streams, and entitlement control information corresponding to the reconstituted entitlement management command.

7. A method for providing program information to subscribers, where each subscriber has one of a plurality of different program entitlements, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of information streams to be communicated to said subscribers;

encoding each of at least some of said information streams with individual entitlement control information to thereby generate entitlement encoded information streams;

breaking each element of said individual entitlement control information into plural portions;

communicating said information streams to said subscribers, each of said information streams being communicated over one of a plurality of independent channels;

communicating said plural portions of said entitlement control information to said subscribers, at least some of said portions of each individual entitlement control information being communicated over separate ones of said independent channels;

generating individual entitlement management commands identifying those information streams of a particular program to which a corresponding subscriber is entitled;

breaking each of said individual entitlement management commands into plural portions;

communicating said entitlement management commands to said subscribers over at least some of said independent channels, with at least some of said portions of each of said individual entitlement management commands being communicated over separate ones of said independent channels;

at each subscriber location, simultaneously decoding the information in at least plural ones of said independent channels to thereby form decoded information, and from said

decoded information, reconstituting at least that one of said individual entitlement management commands applicable to the subscriber to thereby form a reconstituted entitlement management command

5 at each said subscriber location, making available for display only those of said information streams, entitlement encoded information streams, and entitlement control information corresponding to the reconstituted entitlement management command.